

Remarks

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application and are rejected.

Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuing application.

Claim 21 is amended to change "claim 23" to "claim 20" which corrects an obvious error regarding the dependency.

New claims 22 - 37 are presented for Examination. Claims 20-30 depend from independent claim 13 and 31-33 depend from independent claim 20. Claims 13 and 20 are now allowable in view of the Terminal Disclaimers filed herewith. New independent claim 34 is similar to, but not exactly the same as original claim 21. Each of this new claims have an effective filing date of October 6, 1999.

1. Rejections Under Nonstatutory Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1-4 and 8-16 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,713,000.

A Terminal Disclaimer regarding U.S. Pat. No. 6,713,000 is filed herewith.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1-4 and 8-16 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,916,501.

A Terminal Disclaimer regarding U.S. Pat. No. 6,916,501 is filed herewith.

Claims 1, 6-7, 20, and 21 are rejected under the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1-4 and 8-16 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,290,881.

Claims 1 and 6-7 are cancelled rendering rejection of these claims moot.

A Terminal Disclaimer regarding U.S. Pat. No. 6,290,881 is filed herewith.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sirlin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,946,628).

Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are cancelled rendering this rejection moot.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would help expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a conference is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

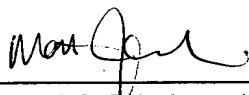
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Atty Dkt No. KRO 0129 PUS1

A check in the amount of \$450.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for three Terminal Disclaimers (\$390) and a one-month extension of time (\$60). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments